

Howard County Consumer Protection Advisory Board Meeting Minutes for May 3, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 pm.

- Present: Jill Bussey, Marshall McLeod, Young Smith, Ronnie Sanderson, Katherine Bornstein (by telephone), Richard Green
- Absent: Ashlyn Hood

Minutes of the April meeting were approved.

Landlord-Tenant law review – Becky has sent draft legislation to County agencies that provide services relating to rental properties (Department of Inspections, Licensing and Permits, Office of Human Rights and the Housing Commission) and have asked for feedback and suggestions for additional ideas. Once she has received this feedback she will proceed with getting input from non-profit organizations and requesting assistance in creating focus groups that represent the most vulnerable tenants in the County.

New State Consumer Legislation – Becky provided the Board with a list of bills that were introduced before the Maryland General Assembly and the outcome of those bills.

Announcements and New Business

- Becky has scheduled a meeting with Montgomery County OCP about collaborating on ads and columns to be run in Korean newspapers. Young then provided a description of her experience volunteering with Montgomery County's OCP.
- OCP is in the process of taking an enforcement action against a trespass tow company for operating without a license and violating several provisions of the County's trespass towing law. The trial in District Court is scheduled for May 30.
- Becky announced that OCP will be moving along with other DCRS offices to the human services campus on Patuxent Woods Road. The move is scheduled to take place sometime in September or October.
- Becky also announced that she will have out for medical reasons from May 19 until mid to late June. The Board voted to cancel its June meeting and to move its July meeting to July 12 due to conflicts with the Independence Day holiday.
- Jill announced that the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement unit is warning about scams related to immigration issues. Catholic Charities Legal Immigration Council and American University's law school are collaborating on a study on the unauthorized practice of law and consumer protection issues related to immigration.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD WILL BE HELD ON JULY 12 AT 7:00 PM
OFFICE OF CONSUMER PROTECTION CONFERENCE ROOM
6751 COLUMBIA GATEWAY DRIVE, COLUMBIA, MD 21046